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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/597,084	07/11/2006	Angel Ibanez Ceba	GAS-87	5845

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EXAMINER
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SMITH, MATTHEW J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3635

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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07/21/2009

ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

info@lmiplaw.com

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/597,084	<b>Applicant(s)</b> CEBA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Matthew J. Smith	<b>Art Unit</b> 3635	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.  
     4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 July 2006 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |                                                                                        |                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>28Dec07</u> .                                                 | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.                          |

### ***Drawings***

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: 3.2, Figure 7. It is noted 3.2 is described in claim 3, however, the examiner prefers element 3.2 be described in the specification (in the event claim 3 is cancelled).

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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Claims 1, 2, and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takeuchi et al. (6739099).

Takeuchi et al. disclose, in Fig. 2, a rigid screwed assembly for metal structures for forming the fastening of secondary sections 7 on an H-shaped receiving section 1a, accessory 20 fitted between the side flanges 2 and web of the receiving section 1a to form the fastening of the secondary sections 7 by means of anchoring screws 3 which pass through both the corresponding assembly parts of the sections 1a, 7 and the corresponding accessory 20; the accessory 20 is U-shaped with a width corresponding the receiving section 1a side flanges gap and with a thickness that can vary according to the degree of rigidity necessary in the assemblies; and the accessory having reinforcements 23 between the flanges to increase the stiffness.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeuchi et al. in view of Simmons (6802169).

Takeuchi et al. disclose the invention substantially as claimed but not a rigid screwed assembly for metal structures wherein the accessories can have one or both of their side flanges with a greater length than that of the side flanges of the applied receiving section so as to form assemblies of secondary sections directly on the projecting part of the oversized flanges of the accessories in the mounting.

Simmons shows, in Fig. 20, a rigid screwed assembly for metal structures having an accessory 114 with the side flanges 114a being greater in length than that of the side flanges of a receiving section 110 and forming assemblies of secondary sections 112 directly on the projecting part of the oversized flanges of the accessory 114.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to extend the Takeuchi et al. flange beyond the column, as shown by Simmons, in order to provide an easier connection.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeuchi et al. in view of McCracken (5426906).

Takeuchi et al. disclose the invention substantially as claimed including a prismatic tubular configuration, Fig. 12b, but not openings for accessing the interior to facilitate handling the fastening anchor.

McCracken presents tubular support having openings 20 for accessing the interior to facilitate handling a fastening anchor (col. 3, lines 32-35)

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a tubular member and provide fastener access

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openings, as presented by McCracken, in order to connect a beam to a tubular member and easily fasten a beam to a column, respectively.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Patenaude (3685866) depict attaching a beam 72 to a column 70 web portion 77 between the flanges.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew J. Smith whose telephone number is (571) 272-7034. The examiner can normally be reached on T-Th, 8-3.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard E. Chilcot can be reached on 571-272-6777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Richard E. Chilcot, Jr./  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3635

/M. J. S./  
Examiner, Art Unit 3635  
9 June 2009